

Virgin LIMITED
EDITION

PREPARING FOR YOUR STAY

Ulusaba 

SIR RICHARD BRANSON'S
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

MA AMUKERIWA!

(welcome in shangaan)

We're delighted that you've chosen to stay with us at Ulusaba

Whether it's your first time on safari or you are a seasoned expert, this document contains some important information to help you prepare for your stay with us.

You can also find out more about our COVID-19 health & safety measures on our [Keeping You Safe](#) page. We hope to answer most of your questions, but please feel free to get in touch if there is anything else. **See you soon!**





Ulusaba 



SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG

DURBAN

MONT
ROCHELLE 

CAPE
TOWN



HOW DO I GET THERE?

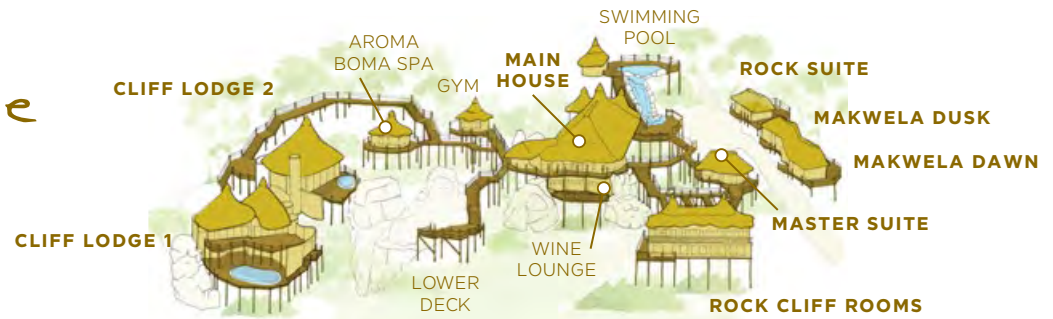
South Africa is served by direct flights from the UK and other major European hubs, with flight times to Johannesburg between 10½ and 11½ hours depending on your point of origin. From the US there are direct flights from the east coast, with flight times of roughly 18 hours.

Ulusaba's private airstrip is approximately a 1 hour and 20 minute flight from the international airport in Johannesburg (OR Tambo International) or 30 minutes from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA)* which is situated in Nelspruit. Get a window seat - the view's terrific! You can also come by road too from KMIA, which will take about 2 hours. Try to arrive by 1pm - just in time for lunch!

You can also explore the African bush further with daily direct flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Nelspruit KMIA and Skukuza Airport gateway to the Kruger National Park and the private game lodges. An air transfer from Ulusaba's airstrip or Skukuza Airport to Nelspruit KMIA connects you conveniently to Livingstone (Zambia) and Vilanculos (Mozambique) gateway to the Bazaruto and Benguerra Islands.

** Times are based on direct flights to Ulusaba Private Game Reserve. Some flights may service all Lodges in the Sabi Sand Reserve so flight times for arrival may vary.*

rock lodge



safari lodge



WHERE IS EVERYTHING?

Rock Lodge and Safari Lodge are both extraordinary in their own way, and each aims to provide a unique and exceptional experience. Rock Lodge sits at the top of a 'koppie', or small mountain. This spot provided the ancient Shangaan warriors with the perfect lookout point, hence the meaning of Ulusaba – 'place of little fear'. Safari Lodge is a short drive away from Rock Lodge set in amongst the bush with swing bridges connecting some rooms. Regardless of which lodge you're staying at, our team will be happy to drive you to the other if you'd like to experience the bush from a slightly different viewpoint.

HEALTH

Ulusaba is situated in the Lovweld region of the the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa which is a malaria endemic area. Please speak to a health professional about appropriate anti-malarial precautions at least 21 days prior to departure. If Ulusaba is the only place in Mpumalanga that you are visiting, no other vaccinations or precautions will be required.



PASSPORTS AND VISAS

UK and US passport-holders do not require a visa to enter South Africa for tourist purposes for fewer than three months. You will however need two full blank pages (four for US citizens) in your passport; without these you will be denied entry. There are also special rules relating to the paperwork required for parents travelling with children so please check with your nearest South African Embassy or Consulate before travelling. All foreign minors intending to visit South Africa are required to be accompanied by an original unabridged birth certificate issued by their country of birth. Rules for visas for citizens from other countries may vary, so again please check with the nearest South African Embassy or Consulate.

WHAT TO WEAR

For game drives you should wear neutral colours that will blend in with the landscape. In summer these should be lightweight, but take a windbreaker or light jacket for evenings and early mornings. In winter take a jumper (sweater), fleece or warm jacket too. Trainers (sneakers) are fine for safari walks, and it's a good idea to bring a hat, sunglasses and sun block for all seasons. You can wear whatever you like around the lodge and dining rooms. Formal wear isn't always practical, but of course it's up to you. We recommend that you bring a couple of smart-casual outfits for dinner, however jacket and tie are never required!



WHAT TO PACK

- We have a few pairs of binoculars at each lodge and one per game vehicle; however we recommend bringing your own if you are especially interested in birdlife and other creatures that are hard to spot with the naked eye!
- A camera is obviously essential! We sell memory cards and batteries in our gift shop, but it is always a good idea to bring your own just in case
- To really capture those once in a lifetime moments whilst out on a game drive, we have partnered with Africa Photographic Services in order to take the hassle out of hiring any camera equipment. Visit their website to place your order and your equipment will be ready for you on arrival at Ulusaba. www.africaphotographicservices.com/ulusaba
- All beds are equipped with mosquito nets and we supply an insect repellent called Peaceful Sleep in your room, however most guests find it convenient to have their preferred brand to carry around with them at all times.
- In your room you will find bottled water, a safety deposit box, a fully-stocked complimentary mini-bar with drinks and snacks, hairdryer, plug adapters, an umbrella, tea and coffee making facilities, a selection of Africology guest amenities and insect repellent

PACK FOR A PURPOSE

- We are proud members of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travellers like you to make a lasting impact in the community at your travel destination. If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and bring supplies for area schools or medical clinics in need, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families. A full list of items you are encouraged to bring can be found on our website



at the lodges

SAFETY AND ORIENTATION AT THE CAMP

On arrival at Ulusaba you'll be taken on an orientation tour of the lodge where you're staying. Both lodges are unfenced and in the heart of one of the world's best game viewing areas, so animals can (and sometimes do!) walk through and around the lodge complexes. Our team will give you safety advice which we encourage you to follow at all times for your safety and the safety of others. It also ensures that we have as little impact as possible on the environment and the native wildlife.

GAME VIEWING

Game drives depart in the early-morning and late-afternoon, each lasting around 3 hours. During your game viewing you will always be accompanied by an experienced Ranger and Tracker. They work together to ensure you have the best game viewing experience possible: The Ranger focuses on telling you about the wildlife you see and driving the game vehicle, whilst the Tracker aims to find the animals and help guide the vehicle through the Bush.

Typically, safari walks depart after breakfast, however the Ranger may opt to take a short walk during a game drive if the opportunity arises. Safari walks focus more on the little things easily overlooked on game drives, such as plants and insects as well as animal tracks. If there is anything specific you want to see or learn about then just let your Ranger know!

Your Ranger, Tracker and all staff at Ulusaba will always put your safety first, however to keep you safe they need your full cooperation. Before you embark on your first game drive, your Ranger will give you a full safety briefing. These instructions are there for the safety of you, the people in your vehicle and the welfare of the animals and environment. On safari walks it is equally important that you follow the instructions given by your Ranger at all times. Safari walks are also subject to weather conditions and if for any reason our Rangers feel it is unsafe, unfortunately the walk will be cancelled.

Our vehicles, like everything else, will be meticulously cleaned, before and after every game drive. To ensure safe social distancing, guests on game drives will be reduced to four people per vehicle, unless travelling as one larger family or group. We also kindly ask that you follow Government guidelines and wear a face mask during game drives.



WATER

Our tap water comes from a bore hole and is safe to drink, but isn't always to everyone's taste. We provide bottled water in your rooms and there is also an unlimited supply available from the bar.



DINING



At Ulusaba dining is a very important part of your stay, and our chefs work hard from morning until night to provide the freshest and tastiest meals possible. All meals and drinks are included in your rates, and with at least six opportunities per day to eat, we promise you won't go hungry!

Breakfasts and lunches are organised 'restaurant style', but in the evenings you'll dine together at communal tables, comparing notes on the animals spotted that day. We also promise you won't be parched with all drinks including a top quality wine list and fine champagne included in your rates.



A TYPICAL DAY....

We thought we would give you a little taster as to what you can expect on a typical day at Ulusaba. You can do as little or as much as you like, it's completely up to you.

5AM - Rise and shine!

The early morning game drive sets off at 5.30am, but before you depart we have teas, coffees and refreshments served on the main terrace.

5.30AM - Off we go!

Depart in an open 4 x 4 safari vehicle, stopping for refreshments in the heart of the South African bush.

9AM - Breakfast

Retreat back to the lodge for breakfast with your Ranger, giving you an opportunity to chat about what you've seen that morning and to compare sightings with other guests. Breakfast is served buffet style so you can help yourself, but there is also an à la carte menu so you can order hot dishes.

1.30PM - Lunch...

...is served often on one of the sun decks and tables are set up restaurant style. All dishes are made to order and there is a range of options – our Rangers favour the Kudu burger!

4PM - Afternoon Tea

Before heading off on the evening game drive we will tempt you with our afternoon tea, served on the patio.

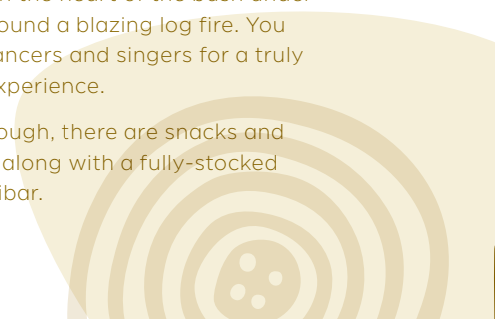
4.30PM - Game on!

It's time to depart for the evening game drive. Search for those elusive nocturnal animals after sundowner drinks in the bush.

8PM - Dinner is served

Enjoy a pre-dinner drink at the bar while our chefs explain the evening's menu choices. Everyone makes their selection and then the meal is served communally at the large tables at each lodge. We often serve dinner in the heart of the bush under the African skies around a blazing log fire. You can expect tribal dancers and singers for a truly authentic African experience.

If all that wasn't enough, there are snacks and treats in your room along with a fully-stocked complimentary minibar.



PRIVATE DINING

Many of our guests choose to visit us for special occasions, be it an anniversary, landmark birthday, or honeymoon, so if you're after a more intimate dining experience we'd be delighted to organise this for you. Dinner can be served on a secluded deck with views over the bush at Rock Lodge, on the deck at Safari Lodge's wine cellar, in the cosy wine lounge back up at Rock Lodge, or somewhere else a little bit more secluded. Just let us know in advance and we can certainly ramp up the romance (if that's what you are after!)

WINES

Wine lovers won't go thirsty with our well-stocked wine cellar at Safari Lodge and lounge at Rock Lodge. our tailored wine tastings are a must. South Africa has an excellent reputation for wine worldwide and naturally we're keen to showcase some of the best local vintages on offer. The wines speak for themselves, and we want you to feel at home, so we don't have a lengthy wine list full of 'winespeak'.

You'll find wines from tiny family owned cellars, the traditional bigger names along with wines from organic and biodynamic producers. There's something to suit everybody.



things to do...

(when your'e not on game drive!)



SPA TREATMENTS

The Aroma Boma at Ulusaba is the perfect antidote to all the excitement of being out on a game drive. Relax and unwind at one of our incredible spa locations: The Aroma Boma at Rock Lodge is located 800 feet above the African Savannah with truly stunning views over the Bush and offers complete privacy. At Safari Lodge, The Aroma Boma is built on the banks of the dry Mabrak riverbed amongst the trees and away from the main lodge area, so the only likely disturbance is perhaps the odd elephant wandering past!

Spa treatments are available for an additional charge and can be booked on arrival, though we encourage you to pre-book to make sure your preferred time is available.

STARGAZING

Far away from all of the light pollution you get in most cities and towns, a visit to Ulusaba is a great chance to gaze at the night sky. Our Bush Observatory may be out of action at the moment, but we still encourage you to look up at night - you won't be disappointed!

SHOPPING

The gift shop situated at Safari Lodge is filled with a selection of arts, crafts, small gifts and clothing ranging from caps, shirts and beanies to gloves. It's the perfect place to buy a little something to take home and has all the bits and pieces you may need when on holiday.

TREEHOUSE VIEWING DECK

The Treehouse viewing deck overlooking the Xikwenga Dam is a fantastic place to sit quietly and really take in the surroundings and serenity of the African Bush. Xikwenga is the largest natural water source in the Sabi Sand so there is lots of animal activity and even if nothing is visiting, the hippos and abundant bird life will keep you entertained. The Treehouse is a stunning 15 minute walk amongst the trees along the elevated walkway from Safari Lodge.

WALKING IN THE BUSH

Safari walks usually commence after breakfast, it allows you to observe the smaller animals that you would not usually see while out on the game vehicles. Our knowledgeable Rangers and Trackers will enthral you with stories about the medicinal properties of plants, the wildlife and fascinating facts.

WORKING OUT

There are gyms situated at both Rock and Safari Lodge, available to use 24 hours a day.

TENNIS IN THE BUSH?

Fancy a spot of tennis? We have two floodlit tennis courts for you to play on during your stay. Don't worry about tennis racquets and tennis balls - we have everything you need and will even arrange to have your favourite drinks waiting for you at the tennis pavilion!

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two outdoor pools, one at each lodge, which are solar heated in the winter months (*May to September*).



families at ulusaba

Cubs (what we call the little ones!) of all ages are welcome at Rock Lodge, whilst Safari Lodge welcomes cubs aged 6 and over

We hope your cubs are excited to explore the African bush and those aged 6 years old and above will be able to join game drives.

Ulusaba offers a range of great activities for your cubs to choose from and there's no set programme. On arrival each cub will receive a backpack filled with fun and educational safari goodies. Cubs have their very own amenities in the room, just like their folks do.

If you're travelling with children under 18 years old, you'll be required to provide unabridged birth certificates at immigration on arrival. Further information can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website or the UK Foreign and Commonwealth website.

CUB'S CLUBS MEALS

We have a great range of child-friendly meals. Cubs can choose from a selection of tasty, well-balanced, healthy and fun meals keeping both the parents and cubs happy!

WHAT CAN CUBS GET UP TO AT ULUSABA?

- A treasure hunt
- Cubs can explore their Arts and Crafts ability with coloured sand art and rock painting
- We have a great range of new and classic children's DVDs, CDs and a Nintendo Wii
- Cubs can enjoy the swimming pool with an experienced swimmer supervising
- Educational board games, puzzles and 'Big 5' playing cards, all with a safari theme
- Traditional South African kids' games which they can teach their friends when they get home
- A mini Ranger's course where your Cub's Ranger will teach them about the African bush and how to track and identify animal footprints and dung droppings
- All Cubs will be invited to join the Pen Pal Club
- Safari walks around Rock Lodge to spot birds, insects, lizards and more
- Bedtime story-telling complete with milk and cookies, or whatever normally helps get your cubs ready for bed!
- Become a safari master chef with a morning creating and cooking pizzas for lunch and cupcakes for guests to enjoy at tea
- Cubs and their folks are encouraged to visit the community to learn about giving back and to see how different the lifestyles are in the community
- Our Cub's spa treatments will ensure they can unwind after a busy day with a variety of specially designed treatments for children

Please note cubs activities are subject to change due to COVID-19 health & safety measures, please ask a member of the team for more information.

the
ULUSABA CUB'S
club



pride 'n purpose



Pride 'n Purpose is our charitable arm committed to helping disadvantaged communities living adjacent to the Sabi Sand Reserve. All of Pride 'n Purposes's expenses are funded by Ulusaba and Virgin Unite, the group's entrepreneurial foundation, so 100% of donations go directly toward much needed projects. Whether you'd like to help by offering a monetary donation (which can be made online or during your visit to Ulusaba, where a donation can be added to your bill), or by donating other supplies such as jumpers, socks or blankets which are very much needed all year-round, donations of all sizes are very welcome and greatly appreciated. If you would be interested in making a donation at any time please contact pnpadmin@ulusaba.virgin.com.

COMMUNITY TOURS & EXCURSIONS

While our local community visits play an incredibly important part of the role we play at Ulusaba, keeping the community members, our guests and our team safe is our number one priority. With this in mind, we are currently not offering any local community visits but we hope to resume these as soon as it is safe to do so and will do our very best to keep you updated.

Travel is always richer when you get an opportunity to connect with the local people. If you're in the mood for an authentic Shangaan experience, we organise Community Tours of the local villages. The Community Tours and Excursions are organized by Pride 'n Purpose, Ulusaba's charitable arm.

DAY IN THE LIFE

This tour looks into some of the charitable projects and schemes Ulusaba is actively involved with. We tailor this tour's itinerary according to your interests.

IT'S CHILD'S PLAY

This tour has more hands on activities. You will have the opportunity to share your skills and teach children anything from new songs to numbers and alphabet.

JUSTICIA VILLAGE TOUR

The Justicia Village tour has more of a cultural emphasis and it is a bit of a show and tell. Local dancers are excited to entertain you and you may even get a taste of the local cuisine!

CANYONS, CULTURES & CONTRASTS PANORAMA DISCOVERER

A day out on the famed 'Panorama Route' along the Drakensberg Escarpment: this tour features visits to the Victorian Town of Pilgrims Rest, the infamous Robber's Grave, Blyde River Canyon, The Three Rondavels, God's Window, Bourke's Luck Potholes and Lisbon Waterfalls.

You'll get up close and personal with some of the region's natural beauty, and we'll tell you about the

history of the area's hardy pioneers. Lunch is enjoyed at Harries Original Pancake Restaurant in Graskop, where sweet, freshly prepared, pancakes and fresh salads and other country fare are served. This is a full day excursion.

CASCADES AND CANYONS SPECTACULAR

Take an exhilarating helicopter flight that swoops over deep and mysterious gorges and through lush valleys bursting with vegetation and colour. Linger above cascading waterfalls for some brilliant photo opportunities. The flight will continue to God's Window, which offers awesome panoramic views of the bushveld below. Then it's on to the fascinating and dramatic rock formations of the 1 000-metre-deep, 30-kilometre in length, Blyde River Canyon. The Blyde is considered the third deepest and greenest Canyon in the World. You will have a bird's eye view of the curious Three Rondavels! We will then land at a site with magnificent views of the Mpumalanga Lowveld, while you tuck into a delicious picnic.

For more information about any of community tours or excursions please contact our reservation team





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